



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Contact: Phillip Walzak
414-286-3677

Barrett Statement on UWM School of Public Health

MILWAUKEE – *Mayor Barrett issued the following statement today on the unanimous decision by the University of Wisconsin System's Board of Regents to establish an accredited School of Public Health at UW-Milwaukee.*

"I have been fighting for a School of Public Health at UWM for years, and I applaud this great news. Milwaukee faces many unique health challenges simply not found in the rest of the state, and a School of Public Health right here in Milwaukee will focus energy and resources on the special needs of our City.

"This institution will educate and replenish our public health workforce, and research the causes of and solutions to public health problems. It will also focus debate and media attention on critical health issues within the unique context of Milwaukee – an outstanding 'learning laboratory' for current and future public health professionals.

"While academic public health programs alone cannot solve complex urban health problems, a School of Public Health at UWM will provide enormous benefits and advantages for the people of our community. It will promote actions and policies that will help people lead healthier lives, and play a major role in the campaign to eliminate social, economic and racial health disparities.

"Today's decision is the right move for Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the UW System, and I will continue to fight to win approval for the School of Public Health in Madison. Special thanks are owed to philanthropist Joe Zilber, whose generous gift of \$10 million helped make this school possible, and the Board of Regents for its visionary decision. I urge the State Legislature to approve the School of Public Health at UW-Milwaukee."

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